



Wapato Lake Land Protection Planning Study

Planning Update 3, December 2002

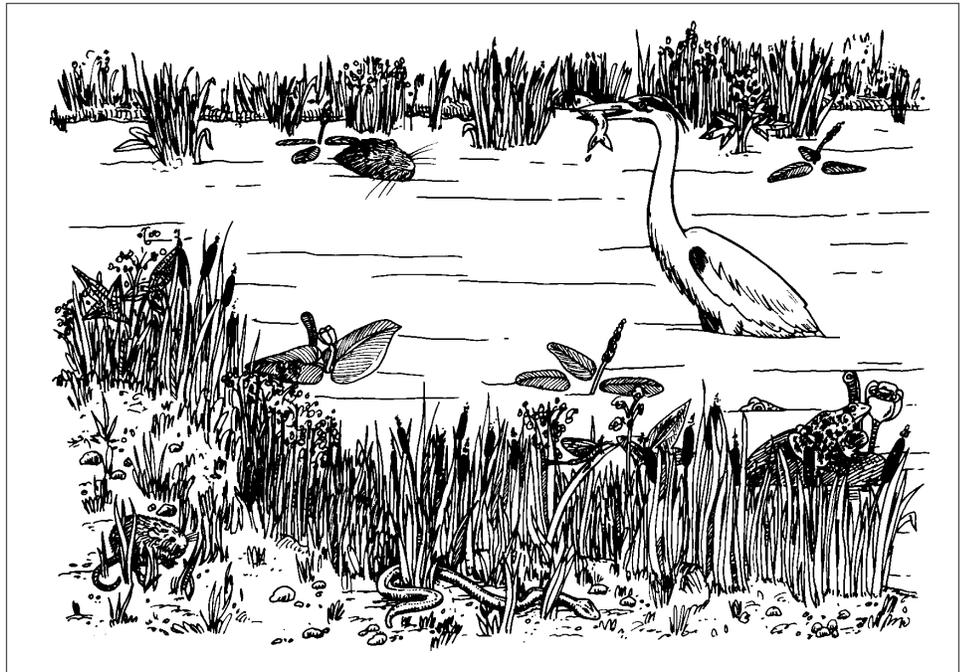
Greetings
 This is the third in a series of Planning Updates from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, designed to inform and involve you in the planning process for the Wapato Lake Land Protection Planning Study in Washington and Yamhill Counties. The planning updates also notify you regarding opportunities to become directly involved in the planning process as development of the environmental compliance document, Land Protection Plan, and Conceptual Management Plan progresses. Your input is very important. It helps us gather information and identify issues affecting you, your community, and the natural resources of the Wapato Lake area.

What is the Status of the Study?

There have been several inquiries regarding the status of the Wapato Lake Land Protection Study. We want to thank you for your patience. Research and mapping needed to develop the preliminary alternatives for this project have been ongoing the past several months. Gathering and thoroughly reviewing information collected from local jurisdictions has taken longer than expected. This extra time spent up front, however, should benefit the study process for making sound, well-informed decisions. Please see the schedule on page 2 for revised dates. The next Planning Update will present the Preliminary Project Alternatives and announce the review and comment period for the alternatives.

What Does the Study Mean to Landowners?

If it is determined through the land protection study and public process, that the fish and wildlife habitat in the Wapato Lake area should be protected as a new national wildlife refuge and a refuge boundary is established, landowners within the boundary who are willing sellers would have the opportunity to sell their property to the Service at fair market value. Landowners within a refuge boundary are not obligated to sell their property to the Service and private property rights are not affected by



What Does the Study Mean to Landowners? continued . . .

being within a refuge boundary. Landowners within a refuge boundary retain all the rights, privileges, and responsibilities of private land ownership including the rights to access, control trespass, sell to any party, and develop their properties, even if the Service has acquired interest in the land adjacent to them. Land development continues to be subject to local regulations and land use zoning. Private lands remain in the control of the owner unless sold to the Service. Land management and access is limited to the lands the Service has acquired.

What Happens Next?

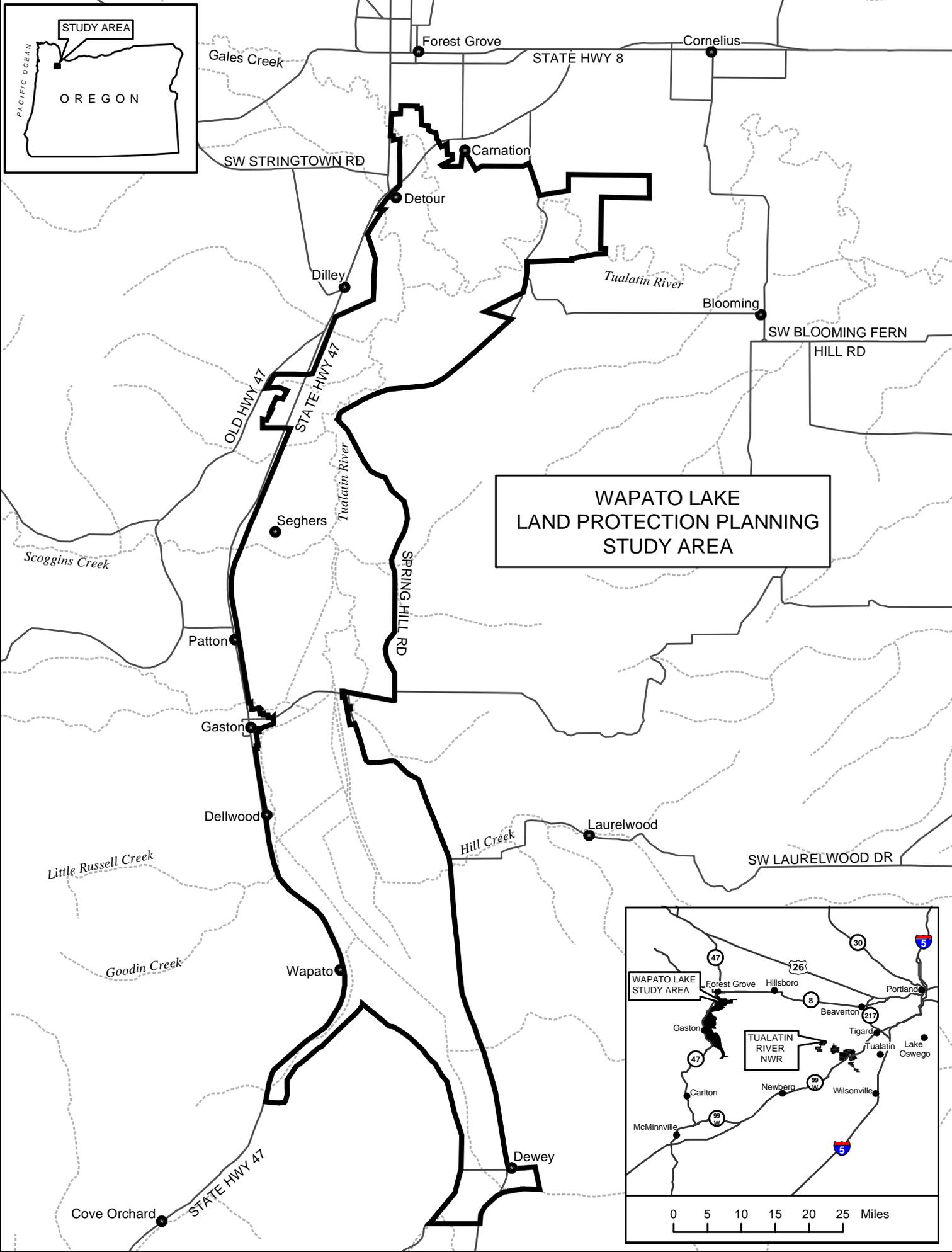
A schedule of the key planning steps follows. Unforeseen circumstances could cause schedule changes. We will keep you posted of major changes in planning dates. Public comment period dates will be announced.

Revised Planning Schedule

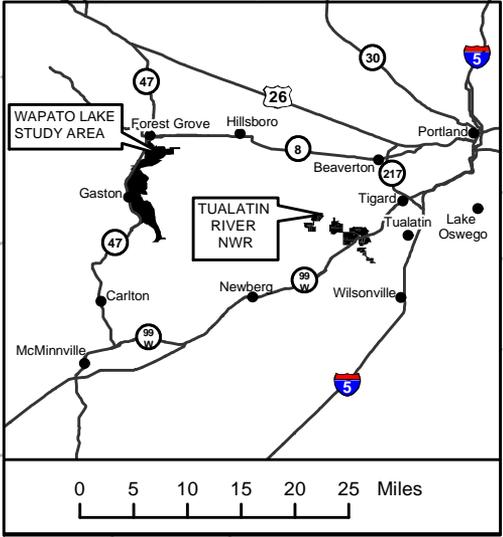
Project Kickoff/Planning Update 1 Issued.....	October 2001
1st Open House, Gaston, Oregon.....	November 7, 2001
2nd Open House.....	December 5, 2001
Planning Update 2 Issued-Summarizing Public Comments	April 2002
Planning Update 3 Issued	December 2002
Research and Mapping Completed.....	April 2003
Planning Update 4 Announcing the Proposed Alternatives.....	May 2003
Public Comment Period on the Proposed Alternatives.....	June 2003
Review Public Comments and Develop Draft Documents.....	Summer 2003
Draft Documents Released and Public Comment Period Begins.....	Fall 2003
Public Meeting/Open House.....	Fall 2003
Public Comment Period Ends.....	Winter 2003-2004
Final Documents and Notice of Decision Released.....	Early 2004

Who Do I Contact?

Cathy Osugi is the new point of contact for questions and comments on the land protection study. Cathy is taking over the planning duties from Annette de Knijf who has accepted a new position with the Service. Cathy is the Senior Fish and Wildlife Biologist in the Division of Refuge Planning, and brings 16 years of land protection planning experience to this project. Cathy's address and phone are listed on page 4.



**WAPATO LAKE
LAND PROTECTION PLANNING
STUDY AREA**



Who Do I Contact? continued . . .



USE OUR E-MAIL OR WEBSITE

E-mail: FW1PlanningComments
@r1.fws.gov

(Please use "Wapato
Lake" in the subject.)

Refuge Planning Web site:
<http://pacific.fws.gov/planning>

For Information on the National Wildlife Refuge System, contact:

Ralph Webber, Project Leader
Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge
16507 SW Roy Rogers Road
Sherwood, Oregon 97140
Phone: (503) 590-5811 Fax: (503) 590-6702

For Information on the Planning and Compliance Process contact:

Cathy Osugi, Senior Wildlife Biologist
Division of Refuge Planning (NWRS/RPL)
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
911 NE 11th Avenue
Portland, Oregon 97232-4181
Phone: (503) 231-2231 or toll free (877) 312-1751 Fax: (503) 231-6161

For Information on Land Acquisition contact:

Wendy Castineira, Senior Realty Specialist
Division of Realty
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
911 NE 11th Avenue
Portland, Oregon 97232-4181
Phone: (503) 231-2039 or toll free (800) 662-8933 Fax: (503) 231-6161



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish & Wildlife Service
Attn: NWRS/RPL
911 NE 11th Avenue
Portland, Oregon 97232-4181

Address correction requested